

Application No. 10/525,752  
Amendment dated May 12, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of January 17, 2006

Docket No.: 12810-00019-US

### AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 35 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Our own, as yet unpublished patent applications having the numbers DE 101 631 63.4 ~~DE 101 631 64.4~~ and DE 102 195 08.0 disclose processes for preparing hyperbranched polyesters by means of enzymatic or acid catalysis. As an alternative to the synthesis from AB<sub>x</sub> molecules, the A<sub>2</sub> + B<sub>x</sub> strategy is also disclosed. AB<sub>x</sub> molecules are formed in situ from dicarboxylic acids A<sub>2</sub> and polyols B<sub>x</sub> and these form hyperbranched polyesters. However, the polymers disclosed are not water-soluble and are thus unsuitable for use in aqueous systems. Polyether polyols as OH components are not disclosed.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Examples of ~~dielefins-diols~~ suitable as chain extenders (V) include ethylene glycol, 1,2-propanediol, 1,3-propanediol, 1,2-butanediol, 1,3-butanediol, 1,4-butanediol, 2,3-butanediol, 1,2-pentanediol, 1,3-pentanediol, 1,4-pentanediol, 1,5-pentanediol, 2,3-pentanediol, 2,4-pentanediol, 1,2-hexanediol, 1,3-hexanediol, 1,4-hexanediol, 1,5-hexanediol, 1,6-hexanediol, 2,5-hexanediol, 1,2-heptanediol, 1,7-heptanediol, 1,8-octanediol, 1,2-octanediol, 1,9-nonanediol, 1,10-decanediol, 1,2-decanediol, 1,12-dodecanediol, 1,2-dodecanediol, 1,5-hexadiene-3,4-diol, cyclopentanediols, cyclohexanediols, inositol and derivatives thereof, (2)-methyl-2,4-pentanediol, 2,4-dimethyl-2,4-pentanediol, 2-ethyl-1,3-hexanediol, 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-hexanediol, 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,3-pentanediol, pinacol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, tripropylene glycol, polyethylene glycols HO(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>n</sub>-H or polypropylene glycols HO(CH[CH<sub>3</sub>]CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>n</sub>-H or mixtures of two or more representatives of the abovementioned

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compounds, where  $n$  is an integer and  $n = 4$ . Preference is given to ethylene glycol, 1,2-propanediol and diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, dipropylene glycol and tripropylene glycol.